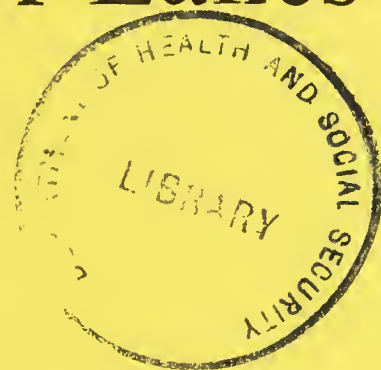


Urban District of Lakes



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1969

Stricklandgate House, P.O. Box 18, Kendal

Telephone Number: Kendal 23502

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON LTD.

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NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Urban District in acres	49,917
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	6,061
Population (Registrar-General's mid year estimate)				5,250
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	2,158
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£237,626
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£950
Rate in the Pound levied	...	...	12/1d. to 13/4d.	
of which the County Rate was	...	...	...	8/11d.

The Urban District of Lakes lies in the heart of the English Lake District and is the nucleus of the National Park. About three miles of the north-eastern shore of Windermere Lake is within the District and the inhabited areas are sited along three main valley systems which radiate from the Lake. To the west lie the Langdales, to the north the dales of Rydal and Grasmere, and to the north-east the Troutbeck Valley which leads over the Kirkstone Pass to the geographically detached dalehead of Patterdale and Glenridding at the head of Ullswater Lake. Your Council Offices are situated at Ambleside.

The valley bottoms lie between 150 and 300 feet above sea level in the major western portion, and in the Patterdale area at about 500 feet. The massive crags and fells rise steeply to altitudes of between two and three thousand feet, comprising some of the finest mountain scenery in Great Britain. Some of the valleys are wooded but the fellsides are majestically covered only by brackens and heather. The stone-built houses are scattered irregularly along the valleys, with only two large villages or townships of any size, Ambleside and Grasmere. The District is therefore essentially rural in character. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of the District is almost entirely confined to the Borrowdale Volcanic Series of lavas, tuffs and agglomerates with some igneous intrusions. Lateral pressure has converted some of the tuffs into slates suitable for roofing. In the extreme south of the District the thin bands of the Coniston limestone and Ashgillian series are interposed between the Borrowdale series and the commencement of the Silurian Rocks which stretch away to the south of the County. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable in the valleys, and invigorating on the fellsides and uplands. The dales of Rydal, Grasmere and Troutbeck are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and, being open to the south, provide full access to sunshine. The Langdales are more exposed, and Patterdale, though sheltered, has a northerly aspect. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in the spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall averages 70 inches a year, but this figure is due more to the heaviness of the rain when it occurs rather than to an undue proportion of rainy days. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is predominantly a holiday centre for climbing, walking and touring around to enjoy the scenery of mountains and lakes. There is also a basic residential character, divided between the local folk who work there, people who commute daily to Kendal, and an ever changing pattern of people who have holiday houses or come to live here on retirement.

There is also a huge seasonal influx of holiday visitors to the Lake District National Park. Many of them stay in the hotels and boarding-houses, and many thousands more come for the day by coaches and private cars, particularly since the motorways have brought us within easy distance of the great northern and midland conurbations.

This increasing tourist trade has been imposed upon the basic characteristics of agriculture, mainly sheep-farming, and thus many of the small local industries help to balance the seasonal fluctuations. There are also slate quarries and knitwear making, in addition to the customary service trades for the area. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has, with emigration, provided the economic security and prosperity which are important factors in the maintenance of the public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T. ..	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Smith, F. R. ..	M.A.P.H.I.	Public Health Inspector	Part	Building Surveyor
Gray, M. ..	—	Clerk	Part	—
Machell, B. M. ..	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

There were none during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for last year for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 49,917

	1968	1969
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	5,230	5,250
Live Births. Legitimate— males	26	34
females	29	17
Illegitimate— males	4	6
females	3	2
Total	62	59
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	11.9	11.2
Corrected Rate per 1,000 popula-		
tion	12.3	11.6
Birth Rate for England and		
Wales	16.9	16.3
Illegitimate Birth Rate per		
1,000 live births	112.9	135
Still Births. Legitimate— males	—	—
females	—	—
Illegitimate— males	—	—
females	—	—
Total	—	—
Total (live and still) births ..	62	59
Rate per 1,000 total (live and		
still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ..	14	13
Deaths. males	39	44
females	35	31
Total	74	75
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	14.1	14.3
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	9.5	10.3
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.9	11.9

	1968	1969
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Total deaths under 1 year.. ..	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	18	18
Legitimate	—	—
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks)		
Total neonatal deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	12.3	12
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week)		
Total early neonatal deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	10.5	10
Perinatal Mortality		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week.. .. .	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	25	23
Maternal Mortality		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	0.24	0.19

Deaths from certain causes:—

	1968.	1969.
Cancer	10	10
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were:—

Heart Disease	30
Cerebro-vascular Disease	16
Cancer	10

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

There is the simple fact that 6,061 persons were counted in this Urban District on the Census night of 23rd/24th April in 1961. But this is a holiday area, and also contains some residential schools. So when all the papers were sorted out, the Registrar-General reckoned that our own residential population in 1961 was really 5,082. That is a base-line for comparing the present mid-year estimate of 5,250, an increase of 168 persons.

We have always recognised that this District relies heavily on immigration to maintain our numbers, and these are usually people who come to live here on retirement. This has caused us to have a much higher proportion of elderly people in our local community than in most other districts. The average percentage of people over 65 years of age in England and Wales was 11.9% at the 1961 Census, and the average for Westmorland was 14.9%. Lakes Urban District had 16.5%. It means also that the younger age-groups will have to keep awake to provide the community support which elderly people need to make their survival achievements worthwhile.

A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Birth Rate.

Your birth rate, both crude and corrected, were as usual far below the national average.

Death Rate.

Your death rate was above the national rate. It fluctuates either side from year to year, but it is never far from the national figure. I do not attach much significance to those variations. Heart disease and cancer take the biggest toll.

Mountain Accidents.

Accidents on our mountains are a special hazard in this District. A regular toll of death and suffering happens every year. Most of these accidents are preventable, and they mostly affect our visitors.

The inexperienced, the unlucky, and the foolhardy, fall out of crags while rock-climbing, lose themselves in the dark and the mist and snow. The physically unfit die of exhaustion, exposure, and heart attacks.

Someone has to turn out to look for them, and rescue them, and bury them. A magnificent local organisation of search and rescue teams has been built up in the District to meet these demands.

A campaign for the prevention of mountain accidents has been organised not only in your District, but also back into the big towns from which our visitors come, and to a wider audience on radio and television. We hope it may help.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance Offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating. The general level is some measure of the local community health.

Under the new Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968, which became operative on 1st October, 1968, Acute Meningitis, Infective Jaundice, Leptospirosis, Tetanus and Yellow Fever were added to the list of diseases required to be notified. Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia and Erysipelas are no longer notifiable.

I am most grateful to my colleagues in general practice, and in the hospital service, for their prompt help in notifying infectious diseases. The control of the most serious of these illnesses is one of the most important duties of our department.

1967 was a fortunate year for notifiable diseases, with only 6 scattered cases of measles, 2 cases of scarlet fever, and 2 of infective jaundice.

Immunisation against measles is still too recent to assess its results in our own locality. But we are hoping that it will eventually be as successful as the other immunisations against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis.

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Manchester and Newcastle Regional Hospital Boards at Lancaster and Carlisle. Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total	Ages											Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65-
Measles	6	—	1	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	—	1	—	1	1	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	—	I	—	I	—	—	—	—

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were:—

		1968.	1969.
Respiratory	...	5	2
Non-Respiratory	...	2	I
		—	—
		7	
		—	—

The Hospital Services.

The smaller northern part of our District lies in the area of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board, and the general hospitals at Carlisle have traditionally served the needs of our Patterdale folk, and it seems likely that they will continue to do so.

The larger southern parts of our District lie in the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, and most of the general needs of our local people have historically been met by the Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal. Some of the more specialised services have always had to be referred to distant centres. This has been understood and accepted by our local community.

In recent years there have been signs that our local folk may be forced to rely more on Lancaster, and less on Kendal. Some people think that Westmorland risks being left rather ill-served if the hospital services concentrate themselves on distant Lancaster and Carlisle. There is a lot of territory in between, and public transport limitations are making it increasingly difficult for outpatients and visiting relatives to get to those hospitals and home again the same day.

The other side of the story is the fact that modern science has caused the hospital services to become more specialised, with expensive equipment and highly trained staff. Yet our national political system has not been able to keep pace with the shortage of doctors and nurses, technicians and secretaries. Both money and manpower are falling short of the needs.

So it all boils down to a rationing system for hospital care. That often means waiting weeks or months for an appointment to trail to some distant outpatient clinic for specialist consultation, waiting months or years for the chance of a hospital bed, and then maybe a somewhat hurried discharge. It is not the fault of anybody in particular: it is simply because the nation will get only what it is prepared to pay for.

One special service which has caused us the greatest worry has been the provision of hospital beds for our elderly people. Not only for their own sake to be looked after somewhere near their homes, but also for the sake of their visitors, who are often elderly themselves.

Since the National Health Service started, some twenty years ago, our elderly people have gone into the geriatric hospital at Kendal Green as their first choice for a medium or long stay hospital bed. A few may have gone into Westmorland County Hospital for treatment of acute conditions, or perhaps to Lancaster or other distant

centres for diagnostic assessment or some special treatment: but Kendal Green Hospital has been the mainstay for our local geriatric needs.

The hospital authorities' 1962 plans for closing Kendal Green Hospital were vigorously opposed by our Westmorland folk, with the result that it has been reprieved for a long time ahead, by refurbishing and plans for building extensions. This has provided a much better standard of comfort and service for the patients, and efficient working conditions for the staff.

The price of reconditioning Kendal Green Hospital was more than the money involved. It meant that we lost a lot of beds. From the old overcrowded total of between 70 and 80 beds, the new look provided only about 50 beds. No one would cavil at the extra comfort and elbow room, but the overflow had to go somewhere else. They were packed off to the back of beyond.

Some had to be diverted to distant Meathop, the erstwhile tuberculosis sanatorium: some were taken away into the re-designated old mental hospital wards at even more distant Lancaster Moor: and some of our Westmorland folk with slow-dying cancers were banished away over to the far side of the Pennines to end their lives at Ilkley.

We reckoned that any overflow of geriatric patients who could not be found beds in Kendal Green Hospital, ought to be served by somewhere else in Kendal or nearby, within easy travelling distance through the summer traffic and the winter snows. We saw a chance of this when the Ethel Hedley Hospital became due for closure.

It was a children's orthopaedic hospital, nominally with 50 beds, beautifully sited on the shore of the lake between Windermere and Ambleside. We saw it as capable of conversion for a slightly smaller number of geriatric hospital beds, easily accessible for patients and visitors.

We pressed our case for this humane cause, with the help of Westmorland's Member of Parliament, right up through the hierarchical administration of the hospital service, to the courteous reception of our local deputation by the Secretary of State, and a subsequent debate in the House of Commons. We lost.

We shall now have to keep a sharp eye on the extent of our local overflow after completion of the additional ward being built at Kendal Green Hospital: and see where else the hospital authorities try to send our old folk away. One thing is certain, we have plenty of battle experience if we need to return to the fray.

HOUSING.

Housing Acts.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your District, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

There are 2,158 inhabited houses in your District. With an estimated population of 5,250, the average number of persons per house is 2.4. This figure is purely hypothetical since many of the better houses have only one or two occupants, and a number of the smaller houses are occupied or let furnished only in holiday times by absentee landlords.

It is probable that the dalesmen's houses have an average of at least four persons per house, which is not excessive for a normal-sized family, and there is probably little overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act. It is temporarily increased during the peak of the holiday season, but no certificates under Section 80 of the Housing Act, 1957, have been granted by your Council to authorise exceeding the permitted numbers.

General Progress of Slum Clearance.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 1,300 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but many of these have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better.

At the end of 1969 we calculated that there were very few houses outstanding on the list, and I do not expect to have to take formal condemnation action against them. Proposals for reconditioning old

cottages keep coming in even faster and the whole programme is very fluid. At this present stage I can do no more but say that our restrained and patient policy seems to be paying off, better than if we had rushed around with bulldozers. Our post-War programmes for dealing with 133 unfit houses has now been virtually completed.

I regard that as a very creditable achievement and we are now in process of examining how best to deal with the outstanding task. For the purposes of the Statutory Return made in accordance with Circular 92/69 for a four-year programme to cover 1970-3, we supplied a nominal figure of a couple per year, but even these seem likely to be rescued by reconditioning.

The following paragraphs analyse the actions taken during the current year and are mainly for record purposes and statutory returns.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

No closing orders were made during the year. No houses subject to closing orders are still occupied.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

One such undertaking was accepted during the year. Two houses subject to undertakings are still occupied.

Undertakings to Repair.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No undertakings to execute works of repair were accepted during the year. None were outstanding at the end.

Improvement Grants.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Discretionary improvement grants were approved during the year for 7 houses.

Standard grants during the same year numbered 14.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 17.

No demolition orders were made during the year.

There were no demolition orders outstanding on the Register of Local Land Charges at the year end.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 42.

There is only one outstanding case on the Local Land Charges Register. It is a house which lingered in occupation from the time when a clearance order was made by the West Ward Council over 30 years ago, and was not vacated until the death of the tenant in 1965. I suppose it will have to be pulled down. All the rest of the block went years ago for road widening.

Estimated Requirements for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 91.

Your District is perhaps one of the most difficult areas in the whole country to assess for its new housing needs. It is subjected to so many outside pressures and influences, often operating far behind the scenes. On one hand there is a noticeable planning resistance to much new housing development on the remaining open areas of the National Park, and on the other hand there is the steady take-over of our traditional dalesfolks' houses to make holiday cottages for outsiders with more money to spend on them.

There were 162 applicants on your waiting list for Council houses during the year. 29 of those families were without a separate home of their own, and 133 families wished to exchange their old houses for a Council one, or to live in this area.

We reckon that a few families still live in cottages which are condemnable, and where the cost of reconditioning is not economically attractive to their present landlords with sitting tenants in occupation. No doubt many of those little houses will eventually be saved by outside purchasers willing to recondition them for owner occupation or holiday lettings.

Some of the families in the condemnable houses have not yet put themselves on your formal waiting-lists, and there are some other people, now residing outside the area, who would like to live nearer their work within the District, or just live there anyway. The need is not quite the same thing as the demand.

House Building Progress.

Since the end of the 1939-45 War and up to 31st December, 1969, your Council completed 218 houses.

During the same post-War period, 186 houses were completed by private enterprise. 19 during the current year.

The selection of centrally-placed sites I feel will be particularly important for old people who need some community help in the time of their difficulties, but who enjoy the pride of their independence at other times.

Your Council made a special contribution to meet this need. A block of 17 flatlets for elderly people was built at Ambleside during 1967 and opened early in 1968. In conjunction with the welfare services of the Westmorland County Council a resident warden is also provided. This has been so successful that plans are being made for a further group of 22 single and 3 double flatlets, plus Wardens' accommodation on another site nearby in Ambleside.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 286 houses. Routine repairs and maintenance are carried out by local contractors. Your present estates do not justify the employment of direct labour, but in the years to come the number of your houses will be increased and the maintenance will require constant attention and you may be faced with considerable reconditioning of the rural houses.

The rents of your Council houses vary between 20/3d. and 81/9d. exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £38 and £70.

Your Council charge an extra rent to those tenants who have allowed married children or relatives to live with them. An exception is however made in those cases in which aged parents no longer at work are being housed by their family. An additional rent is also required from tenants who use their houses for boarding visitors or for bed and breakfast guests.

Housing Nuisances.

Visits were made to investigate complaints in houses leading to the service of 7 informal notices for their remedy. In no case was it necessary to obtain a Court Order.

Certificates of Disrepair.

No certificates were issued during the year.

Dangerous Buildings.

No action was taken during the year.

Caravans.

At the end of the year there were 10 licensed sites, holding some 600 caravans, although most of them were concentrated on the large model site at White Cross Bay.

The introduction of the Caravan Sites Act into our Lakeland villages has been smooth and effective. We have enjoyed the help and support of the Lake District Planning Board, and the National Trust, and most of the land owners. We have deliberately set a high standard, and the site operators have accepted that policy: indeed some of them have gone much further to enhance the attractions and service of their sites.

Tented Camping.

The control of tented camping is still very haphazard; this is due partly to the weakness of the law, and partly to the physical impossibility of patrolling the whole district at peak holiday times.

During the year 4 licences were in force for tented camping sites: these were well operated, and were the least of our troubles. Our major problems arise each season from the host of casual tents which appear on our roadside verges, our commons, odd fields, and even on mountain tops.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The public water supplies are administered by the Lakes and Lune Water Board, on which your Council has representation. The sources are upland surface catchments at Ambleside, Grasmere and Chapel Stile, underground springs at Patterdale, Hartsop and Little Langdale: an ancilliary supply from the river at Chapel Stile, and connections to the Manchester Corporation Thirlmere aqueduct at various points. There is ample quantity for most of these places.

Your Council continue to have a responsibility to check that the quality of the public water supplies is maintained safely for preserving the public health. Periodical tests are made on samples of water from consumers' taps, and some of the results are set out in Appendix A to this report.

Most of these public water supplies are treated by chemical sterilization. No fluoride is added, and the natural fluorine and radioactivity levels are low.

Outside the areas of the public water supplies conditions are generally poor. There are a few small privately-owned systems of varying quality, and the rest of the District relies upon becks, small runners, superficial springs, and the surface drainage catchpits, unreliable in yield and many of undesirable quality. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and that if in doubt they should boil it.

I continue to operate the excellent liaison arrangements with the Westmorland officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for the joint investigation and assessment of applications for grant-aided farm water supply schemes. I have been most grateful for the longstanding co-operation of the Ministry's Regional Microbiologist and the other staff at the Regional Headquarters in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It enables us to co-ordinate the safeguards to the public health as well as the agricultural interests.

I record my appreciation of the help and liaison maintained by the officers of the Lakes and Lune Water Board.

Baths and Hot-Water Systems.

The 1961 Census revealed that about 24% of unshared dwellings in our District had no fixed bath. Although far from satisfactory, it is an improvement since the 1951 Census when 44% were without.

The 1961 Census showed also that about 15% of such households are without a hot water tap. There is still a lot to be done to bring our older and smaller cottages up to acceptable modern standards. Improvement grants are continuing to make up this leeway, and I am sure that the 1971 Census will show what good progress we have made.

SEWERAGE.

Public sewers are perforce limited to the built-up areas of our Urban District. All the rest have to rely on private disposal systems. This report can depict only an outline description of the main public installations.

Ambleside.

Ambleside is the only area within your District which possesses a sewage disposal plant of any size. A complete reconstruction of the works was carried out during 1963 with the installation of a modern activated sludge plant.

The technical difficulties of sludge drying in our local climate are being tackled by the construction of a heat treatment and pressing plant at the Ambleside sewage disposal works. Oil burners will be used for the heating, the sludge will be pressed into solid blocks, and the strong extracted liquid will be returned through the main works for dilution and further processing. This same plant will also be used for treating the sludge from the new disposal works for Grasmere, when brought in tankers to Ambleside. Construction was well advanced at the year end, and completion is expected by the summer of 1970.

We are bedeviled by the geographical limitations of our enforced position alongside the river, and the whole works are apt to disappear under water in times of flood. Apart from the damage of fittings being swept away, the debris makes normal operation rather heart-breaking for the maintenance staff. The record marks of flood levels on the pump-house will tell their own tale.

Grasmere.

1969 was a year of upheaval and anguish in Grasmere, with the constructional works for installing a new public sewerage system and building a proper sewage disposal plant.

Meanwhile we have had to manage with the ancient primitive sewer which serves only a small part of the township, and some sort of partial sewage treatment in the tank at Pavement End. The remainder of Grasmere empties into a host of individual cesspools and septic tanks.

Everyone had long since realised that the only remedy would be to install a proper public sewerage system throughout Grasmere village, and build a sewage disposal works on the least obtrusive site. Your

Council instructed their consulting engineers in 1962 to prepare such a scheme. Progress has been protracted with this difficult and expensive scheme, but work commenced during 1968 and we hope that it may be completed during 1970.

Chapel Stile and Elterwater.

Chapel Stile is sewered into a large septic tank which has an outfall into the river. It is not satisfactory in operation, and inadequate for any further development. Elterwater village has an even cruder system of ancient drains, discharging direct into the river. During 1967 your Council asked their consulting engineers to prepare a sewerage and sewage disposal works to serve both villages.

The plans were almost completed by the end of 1969 and will probably be submitted to the Ministry sometime in 1970. Meanwhile the existing sewerage system of Chapel Stile was extended during the year to allow development of land, and the improvement of another group of houses slightly further up the Langdale valley.

Troutbeck.

Troutbeck has a short length of sewer which serves only a few houses and leads into a small septic tank belonging to your Council. It does not seem to give much trouble. It is hardly worthy to be classed as a disposal works and it would be unlikely to carry much additional load.

The installation of a public water supply to Troutbeck village will inevitably mean that a public sewerage system must follow. Otherwise there will be a real mess.

Patterdale.

Patterdale is sewered by a short length of piping into a septic tank belonging to your Council in Robinson's field.

Elsewhere.

No public sewerage exists in Glenridding, Rydal and Little Langdale, nor in the more scattered rural hamlets and townships.

Prevalence of Water-closets.

Water-closets have been installed mainly in the areas which are served by public sewers and in the better type of house where private sewage systems have been made. The 1961 Census revealed that about 12% of our houses are still without a water-closet inside. Five earth-

closets were abolished during the year. Five conversions to water-closets were made during the year.

As your District is the nucleus of the National Park and will receive an increasing number of holiday visitors from this country and overseas, it is most desirable that the extension of your sewerage schemes shall be followed by the conversion of earth-closets, privies and privy-middens to more hygienic water-closets. I hope that full advantage will be taken of improvement grants and that the 1971 Census will show our good progress.

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences are situated at Ambleside, Glenridding, Grasmere and Waterhead. From time to time they suffer grievously at the hands of hooligans who do wanton damage to the fittings.

The Lake District Planning Board propose to provide public conveniences at White Moss Common, and Elterwater. These are places where the need for public conveniences arises predominantly on account of visitors to the National Park, so the whole cost of construction and maintenance will be borne by the Board under the Countryside Act, 1968. This policy will be a great help to District Councils such as ours.

Highway Laybys.

Many of the highway laybys and casual parking and picnicking spots get into a mess during the season. The land over the wall becomes an open latrine. Bottles and litter get scattered around, and some of the laybys get rat-infested at times. Private water supplies and nearby residents are put in peril and so are the people who choose to park on these sites at night.

The time may be near when the more popular spots should be provided with some sort of latrines as well as litter-baskets. The present arguments follow the familiar pattern of who should pay for them. Until this can be resolved, it would help for notices to be displayed in the laybys telling people where they can find more decent and safer facilities.

Lake Craft Sanitation.

I am not entirely happy about the amount of crude sewage which is dropped overboard from houseboats, cabin cruisers and lake steamers on Windermere. It seems to be increasing every year and it can be rather unpleasant. Something better is needed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Domestic refuse is collected from the whole of your District with the exception of a few detached and isolated dwellings. Your Council's own vehicle and staff are used for the work.

Refuse Disposal.

The main tip is at Brathay over the Lancashire border. Access is difficult, and the contours of the site make full-controlled tipping almost impossible. The covering of the tip has been much improved since pulverised refuse has come from the Ambleside plant. The authorised life of this tip is now only about two more years, and then we may have to seek another site elsewhere.

In times of emergency, when wintry weather makes access impossible to the Brathay tip, we have to use the old control tip in Ambleside. This is getting even more difficult because the site is being progressively redeveloped with the reconstructions and extensions of the nearby sewage works, by the obligatory needs of stockpiling at the pulverising plant and by the building of a new highways department dépôt. The old tip is already undesirably high above the river bank and the surrounding landscape.

The tip at Foulmire in Grasmere was closed during 1969. It too had become overfull and too high above the main road. There is a small hollow remaining at the north-east corner, which now contains the sewage plant for a group of houses nearby. So when the Grasmere main sewerage system is completed in 1970, we may be able to fill up this last remaining hollow with pulverised refuse, and tidy up the whole site for good.

The tip at Mill Moss in Patterdale was also closed in 1969, for the same reasons of becoming overfull. It is being tidied up, but it still suffers the abuses of being used for unauthorised local dumping. We hope that in time the local inhabitants will be dissuaded from defiling the middle of their own village, because the District Council will have withdrawn the labour of clearing up and covering it over. Nowadays our collection vehicles bring all the Patterdale refuse over to the pulveriser in Ambleside.

Now what we need most are sites for the final disposal of the pulverised residue. It could have valuable soil fertilising qualities, and usefully fill in many rocky hollows for land improvement.

Street Cleansing.

The work is undertaken by the Highways Department, and the streets are well maintained.

FOOD HYGIENE.

General Powers.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact; the good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Food Trade Categories.

The Secretary of State requires me to furnish certain details about the categories of food trade carried on during the year. They are set out in the adjacent table.

Regulation 16 relates to the requirement for providing wash-hand basins, and Regulation 19 relates to the requirements for providing facilities for washing food and equipment used in food businesses.

Category of Premises	Number	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 Applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Hotels (large)	28	8	28	28
Hotels (private)	34	not known	34	34
Boarding Houses*	45	„ „	45	not known
Cafes and Snack Bars ..	31	4	31	4
Grocers	10	18	16	16
Greengrocers	2	2	2	2
Wet Fish Shops	1	1	1	1
Butchers	4	4	4	4
Sweet shops and other premises retailing ice cream	19	19	not known	not known
Private clubs and bars ..	3	not known	3	3
Fish and Chip Shops ..	1	nil	1	1
Hostels	11	9	11	9

*Does not include the many boarding houses which are not rated as such.

Ice-Cream Trade.

The following premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	1
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	...	Nil
Storage and sale only	...	42

Prepared Meats.

The number of premises on the Register under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meats, pressed meat, and pickled foods was 4 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

Liquid Eggs.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

Poultry Processing.

There are no poultry processing premises.

Milk Registrations.

There were 32 registered distributors and 1 registered dairy which were not dairy farms. No particular difficulties were met, and milk-round vehicles were generally maintained in good condition.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Biological and other test results on 63 samples taken by various Authorities, from sources in your area, continued to be passed to me. I have had no cause during the current year to serve any notices under the Milk and Dairies Regulations to restrict the sale of milk or the activities of milk-handlers.

Special attention was directed towards the organisms of brucella abortus in the above samples.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.

There are no slaughterhouses and no knackers' yards in your District.

Condemnation of Meat.

All slaughtering is carried out at the Kendal Abattoir where the meat is inspected by the Borough Inspectors. No meat was condemned in your District.

Condemnation of Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned by your Inspector during the year:—

Ox Tongue	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Tinned Apricots	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Tinned Potatoes	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Quantities of ice-cream and other sundries.				

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Secretary of State requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial at Ambleside Tip.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employ one part-time Public Health Inspector. It is difficult to arrange duties in combined appointments in a small local authority, particularly when an Inspector is single-handed, and there has to be considerable elasticity to cover all the responsibilities.

Nevertheless there is a tendency for the more demanding incidents of building surveying and delegated planning functions to overshadow the needs for the full quota of public health inspection.

There are certain advantages in combined public health inspection and housing management, but I am watching how this system develops. I record my appreciation of his work during the year.

Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

There are 30 factories on the Register. No inspections were made and no written notices were served. No Legal Notices remained outstanding at the end of the year. No prosecutions were required. One reference was made to H.M. Inspector and none were received from her.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District.

H.M. Inspector of Factories has been given details of your Urban District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1964.

Factory Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	—	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	29	—	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	30	—	—	—

No defects were found.

Offices and Shops.

This legislation makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these premises.

Forty-one visits were made during the year.

Type of Premises	Registered at year end	Inspected during year	Persons Employed
Offices	40	4	130
Retail Shops	78	14	180
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ..	1	Nil	4
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	25	11	281
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	144	29	595

Twenty written notices and no verbal notices were served for contraventions discovered.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Pest Control.

Your District is covered by the South Westmorland Joint Pest Control Board. Regular visits are made to your refuse tips which seem to attract rather an undesirable number of rats.

Boarding Kennels.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

One such place is on the register in your District. It was inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Rent Acts.

No action was taken during the year under the Rent Acts, and any contraventions regarding rent-book entries were corrected informally.

Clean Air.

No action was required.

Compulsory Removal

National Assistance Act, 1948-1951.

Happily there was no need during the year to invoke the powers of this Act.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Public Mortuary and Post-mortem Room.

Public mortuary and post-mortem examination facilities are now available by arrangement at Westmorland County Hospital, Kendal.

Laboratory Services.

The Public Health Laboratory Services at Preston and Carlisle provide the necessary facilities for most of our public health investigations.

APPENDIX A. **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies**

Nature of Test	Standards Max.	Ambleside	Grasmere	Patterdale	Great Langdale	Little Langdale	Hartsop
Pr. coli count 37° ..	3-10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faecal coli/strep ..	—						
Date sampled last ..	—	16.12.69	16.12.69	9.9.69	18.11.69	23.10.69	9.9.69
Character ..	—	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction pH ..	—	7.0	7.1	7.9	7.1	7.5	7.2
Ammonical Nitrogen..	.041	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.006	.01	.015	.05	.03	.005	.06
Total Solids ..	1000	40	40	56	36	44	56
Hardness—Total ..	300	27	24	34	14	32	34
Carbonate ..	—	11	11	28	8	18	27
Non-Carbonate ..	—	19	24	6	6	20	7
Chlorides ..	30	7	6	6.1	6	6	6
Nitrates ..	1	.25	.38	.1	.02	.04	.1
Nitrites ..	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
0.2 Absorbed ..	1	.36	.05	.04	.48	.28	.04
Heavy Metals ..	—	n/a	Nil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rainfall 24 hours ..	—	1.06"	1.06"	.28"	.3"	Nil	.28"
Date sampled..	—	17.11.69	17.11.69	8.9.64	3.10.67	17.9.68	8.9.64
Laboratory ..	—	Preston	Preston	Preston	Preston	Preston	Preston

Chemical analyses expressed in parts per million.

